

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 FMC-02
INR-10 NSAE-00 CG-00 DLOS-09 OES-07 AF-10 ARA-14
EA-12 EUR-12 NEA-11 ISO-00 IO-14 /110 W
-----087217 122213Z /66
R 121739Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6090

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 LONDON 07558

E. O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EWWT, PORG, IMCO
SUBJECT: IMCO: SUBCOMMITTEE ON BULK CHEMICALS
(BCH), 4TH SESSION

1. SUMMARY: SUBJECT MEETING WAS HELD AT IMCO HEADQUARTERS IN LONDON MAY 8-12, 1978. THE SUBCOMMITTEE AGREED TO:
(A) THE EIGHTH SET OF AMENDMENTS TO THE BULK CHEMICAL CODE,
(B) ALLOW THE CARRIAGE OF HIGH VAPOR PRESSURE LIQUIDS ON EXISTING GAS SHIPS,
(C) GUIDELINES FOR THE APPLICATION OF AMENDMENTS TO THE GAS CARRIER CODES, AND
(D) GUIDELINES FOR APPLICATION OF THE BULK CHEMICAL CODE TO INCINERATOR VESSELS AND CHEMICAL TANKERS BUILT BEFORE APRIL 12, 1972
ALL MAJOR U.S. GOALS WERE ACHIEVED. END SUMMARY

2. AGREEMENT WAS REACHED ON REVISED REQUIREMENTS FOR CARRIAGE OF PROPYLENE OXIDE ON CHEMICAL TANKERS AND EXISTING GAS SHIPS. OTHER HIGH VAPOR PRESSURE LIQUIDS WERE ALSO ALLOWED TO BE CARRIED ON EXISTING GAS SHIPS.

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3. A U.S. PROPOSAL FOR UNIFORM INTERPRETATION OF REQUIREMENTS FOR MIDSHIPS ACCOMMODATION HOUSES ON EXISTING CHEMICAL TANKERS WAS ADOPTED.

4. A NETHERLANDS PROPOSAL FOR CARRIAGE OF CHEMICALS IN DEEP TANKS OF DRY CARGO SHIPS WAS DISCUSSED, BUT NO ACTION WAS TAKEN. AN INTER-

SESSIONAL MEETING, IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING THE FIFTH
SESSION OF BCH, WAS SET FOR NOVEMBER 23 AND 24, 1978
AT IMCO HEADQUARTERS.

5. NUMEROUS NEW CHEMICALS WERE EVALUATED FOR IN-
CLUSION IN THE BULK CHEMICAL CODE. THIS AND SEVERAL
OTHER TASKS WERE DEALT WITH BY AN AD HOC WORKING
GROUP. DUE TO THE NUMBER OF NEW TASKS AND, PARTICU-
LARLY, THE REQUEST THAT CRITERIA BE ESTABLISHED FOR
EVALUATION OF NEW PRODUCTS, THE GROUP WAS NOT ABLE TO
COMPLETE ITS WORK. AS THESE TASKS ARE OF HIGH
PRIORITY, THE GROUP IS SCHEDULED TO MEET AGAIN DURING
THE SIXTH SESSION.

6. MISCELLANEOUS AMENDMENTS TO THE BULK CHEMICAL
CODE WERE AGREED. ALONG WITH THE REVISED PROPYLENE
OXIDE REQUIREMENTS, THESE AMENDMENTS WILL BE FOR-
WARDED TO THE MARITIME SAFETY COMMITTEE(MSC) FOR
ADOPTION AS THE EIGHTH SET OF AMENDMENTS TO THE CODE.
MSC WAS GIVEN RECOMMENDED DATES OF APPLICATION FOR
THE AMENDMENTS.

7. THERE WAS INSUFFICIENT TIME TO DEVELOP COMPRE-
HENSIVE AMENDMENTS TO THE BULK CHEMICAL CODE TO AC-
COMMODATE INCINERATOR VESSELS. GENERAL GUIDELINES
FOR ADMINISTRATIONS TO USE IN APPROVING AND CERTIFI-
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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00
EB-08 FMC-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 CG-00 DLOS-09 OES-07
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CATION OF INCINERATOR VESSELS WERE AGREED TO.

8. AN AD HOC WORKING GROUP CONTINUED ITS WORK AT THIS SESSION TO DEVELOP STANDARDS FOR PROCEDURES AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR ANNEX II OF MARPOL 73. DRAFT STANDARDS WERE MODIFIED TO REFLECT THE COMMENTS SUBMITTED. SIGNIFICANT MATTERS CONSIDERED INCLUDED PREWASH PROCEDURES, A CARGO SLOPS COMPATIBILITY GUIDE, A MEANS OF RESIDUE ASSESSMENTS, AND HOMOGENIZATION TECHNIQUES.

9. DRAFT GUIDELINES FOR ANNEX II RECEPTION FACILITIES WERE REVISED. THE MEPC INTERPRETATION OF "ADEQUACY" WAS CONSIDERED. IN LIGHT OF ITS SIGNIFICANCE, ALL DELEGATIONS WERE URGED TO CONSIDER THE REQUIREMENTS OF ANNEX II AND THE IMPLICATIONS OF THIS NEW INTERPRETATION. THIS NEW INTERPRETATION WILL BE DISCUSSED AT THE INTERSESSIONAL MEETING REFERRED TO IN PARA 11 BELOW WITH A VIEW TO ADOPTING RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FORWARDING TO THE FIFTH SESSION OF THE BCH.

10. THE DESIGNATION OF MIXTURES TO EITHER ANNEX I OR II OF MARPOL 73 CONTAINING SUBSTANCES LISTED IN BOTH ANNEXES WAS CONSIDERED. IN VIEW OF ITS UNCLASSIFIED

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SIGNIFICANCE, FURTHER STUDY WAS RECOMMENDED.

11. AN INTERSESSIONAL MEETING OF THE ANNEX II WORKING GROUP WAS SCHEDULED FOR SEPTEMBER 5-8, 1978 IN THE HAGUE, NETHERLANDS. THE GROUP MEETING WAS PLANNED IN ORDER TO FACILITATE THE COMPLETION OF THE GUIDELINES AND THE STANDARDS IN A TIMELY MANNER BEFORE THE COMING INTO FORCE OF ANNEX II OF MARPOL 73. U.S. DEL SENDS.

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